

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends the specification in the same manner as the parent application 10/179,647 was amended in order to make specific reference to corresponding sections in the parent and grandparent applications. This Preliminary Amendment further amends the specification to correct a minor inadvertent error.

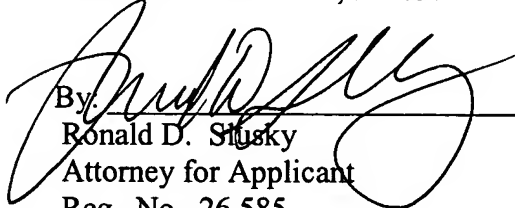
The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to United States Patent 6,324,279 issued November 27, 2001. The '279 patent is assigned to the present assignee, AT&T Corp., and shares a similar disclosure with the present application, as well as with the parent and grandparent of the present application. The grandparent application, serial no. 09/366,207, was filed on the same date as the application that matured into the '279 application.

The title and abstract of the present application have been amended in this Preliminary Amendment to be the same as those of the '279 patent. The field of the invention set forth in the first paragraph of the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION has also been amended. The SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION has been amended to reflect the subject matter of applicants' first claim—claim 26—as illustrative of the invention.

It is suggested that the examiner compare the claims of the present application with the claims of the '279 patent. In particular, the examiner may wish to compare independent claims 50, 65, 72, 79, 83, 91 and 100 of the present application with various ones of independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 43 of the '279 patent, as well as their respective dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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